

# Smash

4 December 1944-28 December 1983



Beach Boys Stomp 41  
February 1984

# BEACH BOYS STOMP - FEB 1984

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music for all my life."

Dennis was buried at sea early in January. His widow, Shawn, said it was Dennis's wish to be buried at sea. The burial was carried out by the US Coast Guard under orders from President Reagan.

At a press conference on 9th January the four remaining Beach Boys plus Bruce Johnston announced that the group would continue as a recording and performing entity. A short tour due to begin at the end of January would be postponed until the spring. Also they would be going into a period of mourning but will be back as positive as ever. Brian said he was very disturbed that his brother was buried at sea. Brian also added that he would write a song to his brother and dedicate it to him on the group's next album.

A few have asked if STOMP will continue and although in the past we have talked about ending on Issue No 50, we have decided that we will keep on going just as long as you, the readers, want us to.

**MIKE**

Back issues available at £1.00 each including postage are: 35, 36, 37,  
39 and 40.

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## EDITORIAL

In PACIFIC OCEAN BLUE's "You And I" Dennis sings "I'll never make the headlines or the evening news", but he did, in the worst way imaginable. So many of you sent in letters, tributes and memories expressing the sorrow we have all felt. Trying to decide which ones to print and also what to say myself became an unenviable task.

It came as a great relief to me when David Leaf author of the best book ever about the group, "The Beach Boys And The California Myth", gave us permission to use an article he had originally written for a US magazine BAM. It is written truthfully and honestly and I'm sure you will all agree it was the right decision to use only David's article. I would like to take this opportunity to thank David very much for his co-operation. Special thanks also are due to Peter Reum for the use of some of the terrific photos included in this issue.

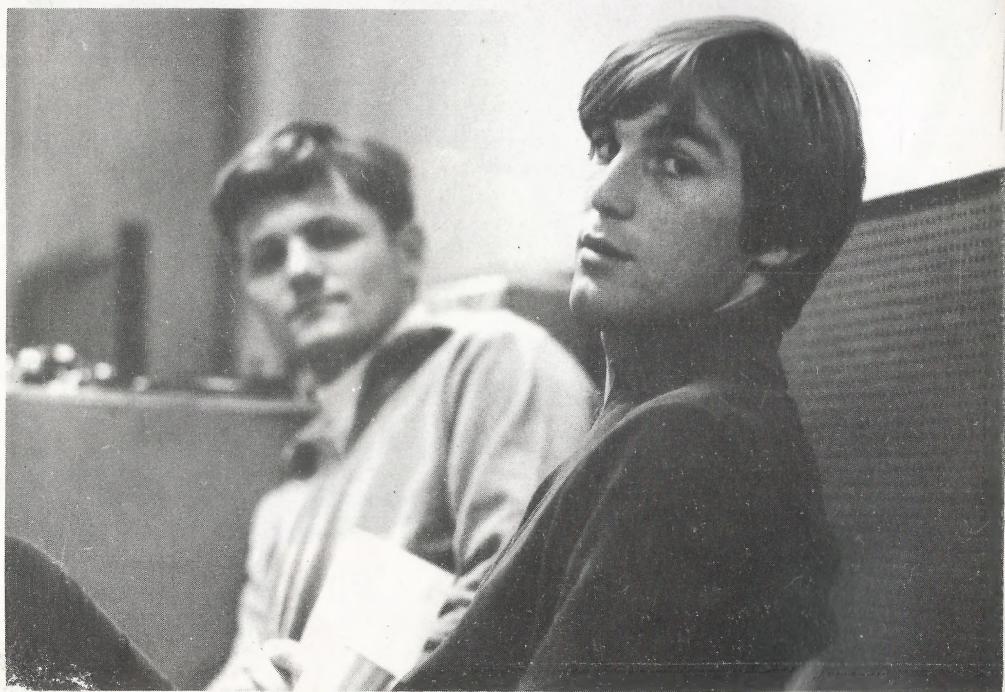
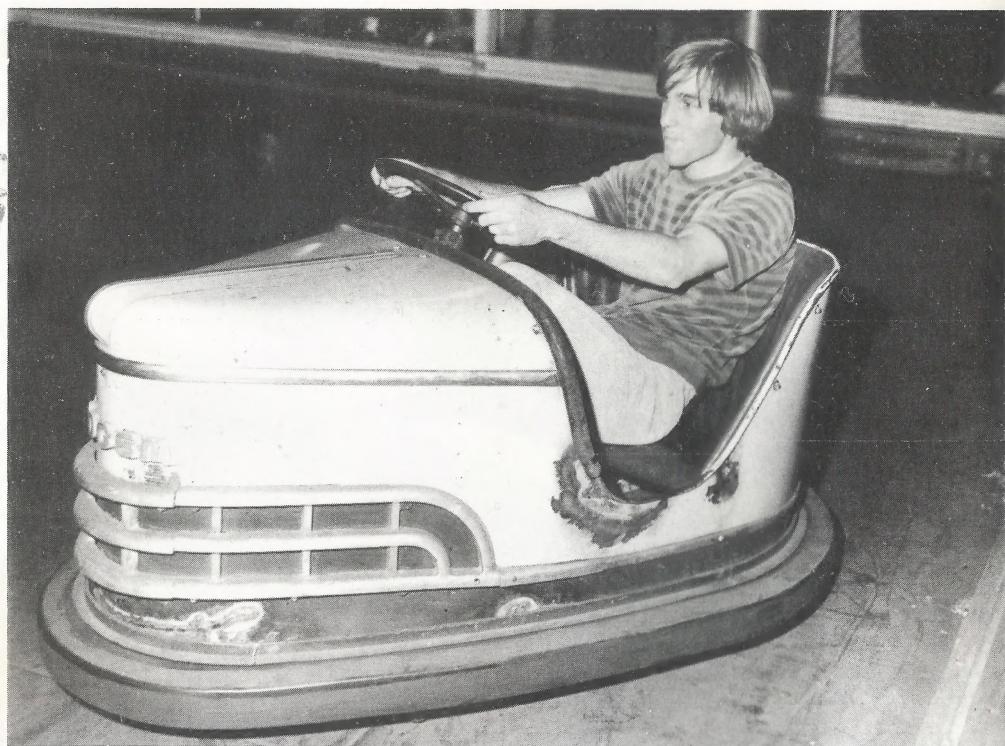
Many of you have asked if we had any more details or information of Dennis's fatal accident, so I will tell as much as I know at the time of writing.

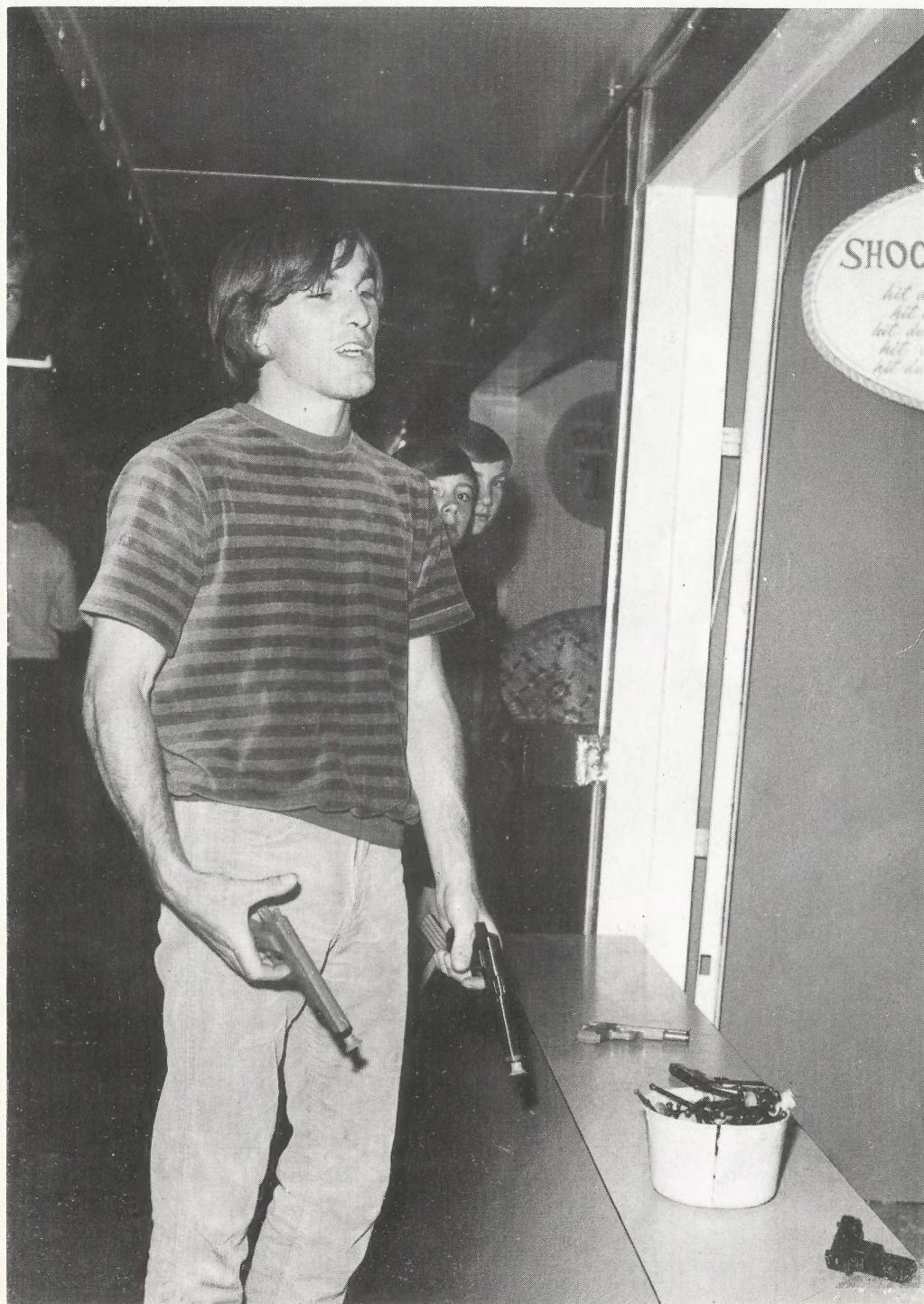
Apparently Dennis was diving for various items he had thrown from his own boat which was previously moored in the same place as his friend's boat. Dennis's boat had been sold some time ago. Dennis had been up and down a few times before he failed to surface in very cold water, 58°F.

The Coroners reported a high level of alcohol in his blood, but that he had not taken any drugs.

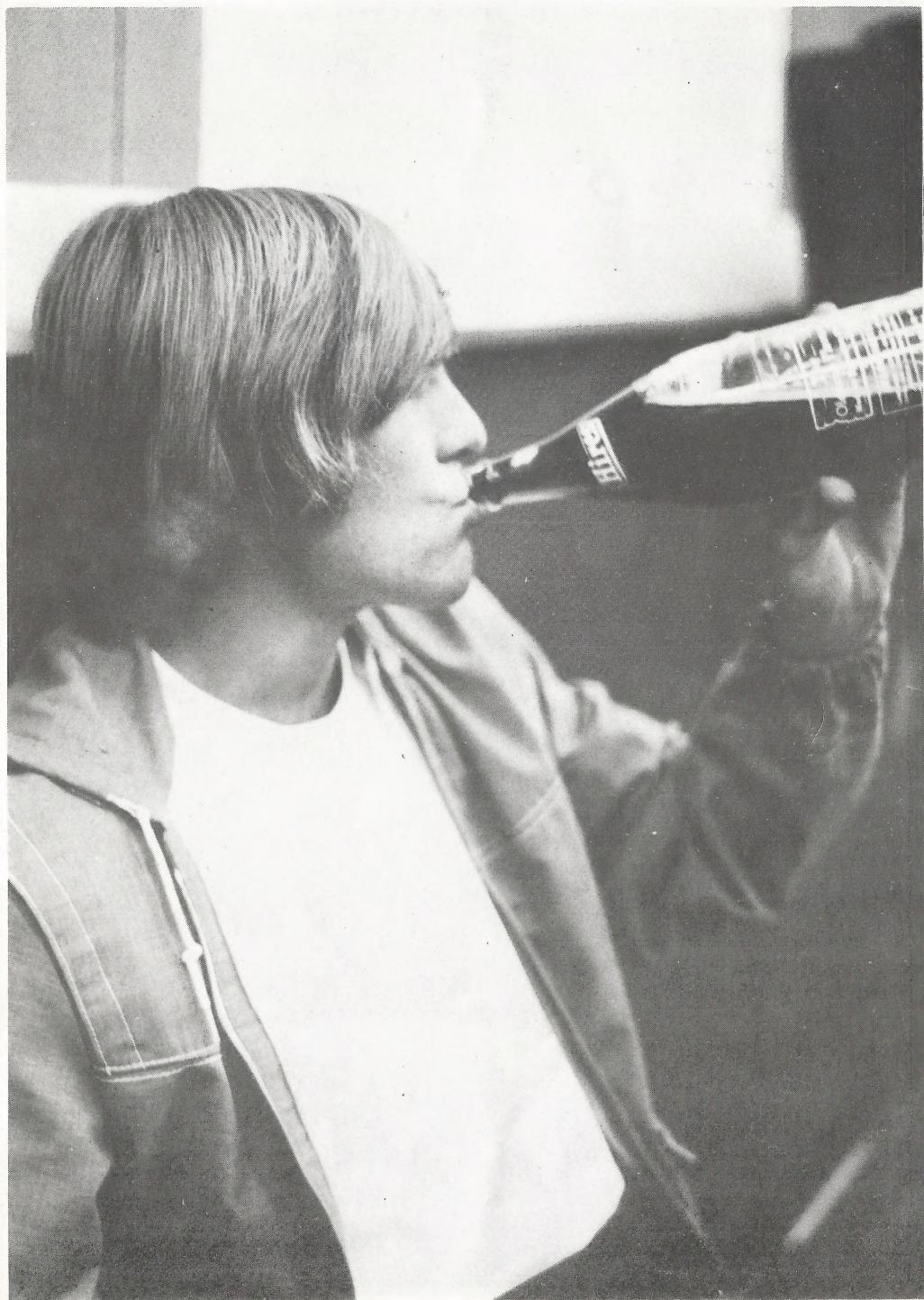
A service over the New Year weekend was attended by all the Beach Boys except Brian who had attended another service previously. "Farewell My Friend" from PACIFIC OCEAN BLUE was played during the brief ceremony for 75 to 100 family members at Inglewood Cemetery. Brian issued a statement:- "My brother is with me in my heart and he will be with me in my

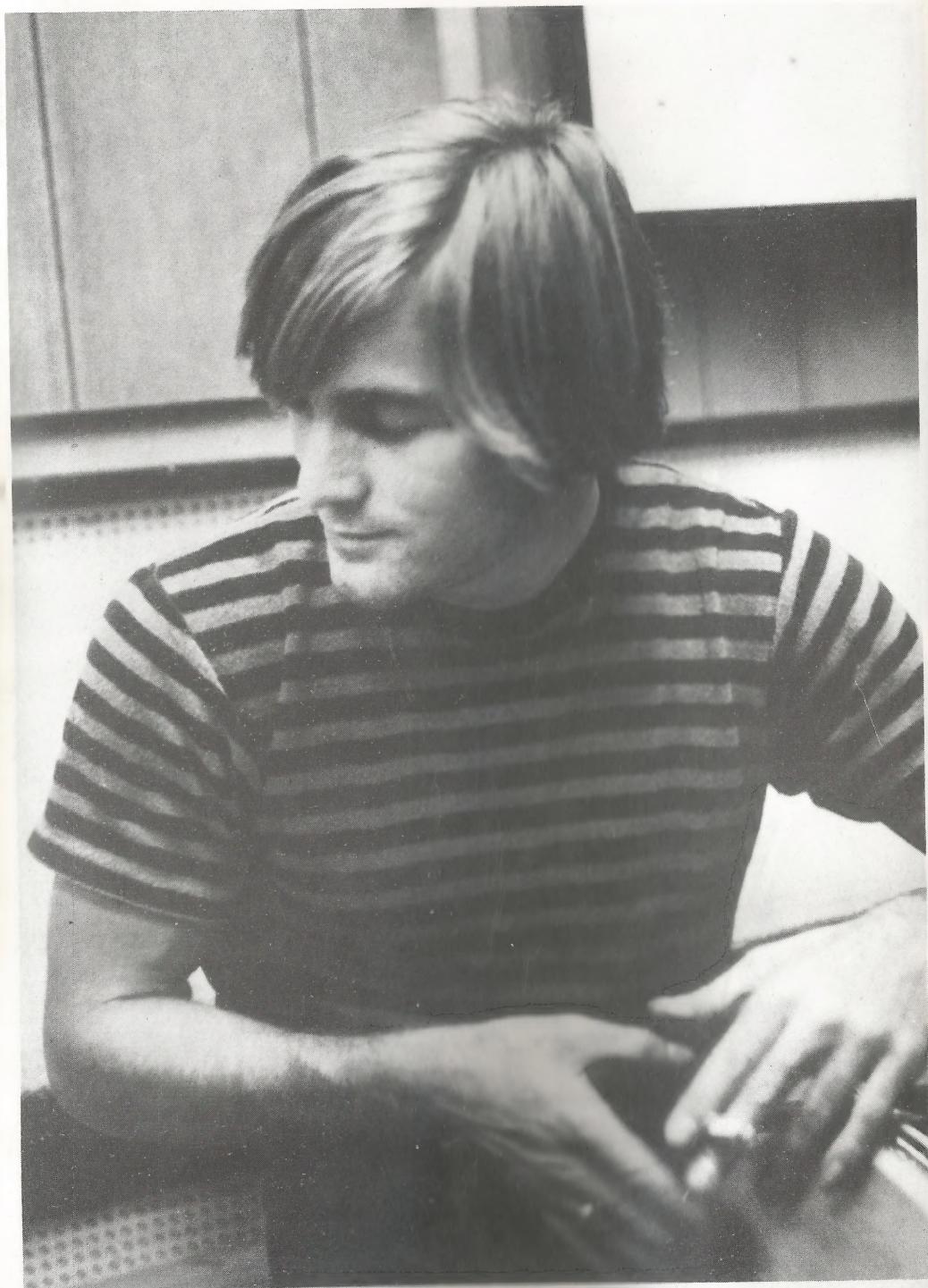














### Dennis Wilson

Last November I saw Brian Wilson after the Beach Boys' opening night concert at the Universal Amphitheatre. Coming into a backstage roomful of strangers, Brian gravitated toward my familiar face. We had a long conversation, frequently interrupted by his keeper, Gene Landy, who wanted to show the "new" Brian off.

Brian, however, kept returning to me, more comfortable talking to somebody he knew. At one point he asked me whether I liked the way the group had performed "Surfer Girl". As their harmonies had been mediocre and as I've never deliberately hurt Brian's ultrasensitive feelings, my answer was evasive. But it was also the truth.

"Brian. I don't know why, but it was on that song that I missed Dennis the most. You know, the way he stands at the microphone, with his hand in his ear, his eyes closed, singing and swaying to the music. It's just not the same when he's not there."

Of course, Dennis will never be there again. He died last December 28th, just weeks after his 39th birthday. And if you had seen Dennis in recent months, his death really wasn't a surprise.

I last saw Dennis in April of '83, just after James Watt had goosed the Beach Boys' concert grosses with a curiously backwards phrase about attracting an undesirable element. The group's subsequent White House concert was more than a little ironic. I know the Reagans are out-of-touch with reality, but I would have thought somebody, like Patti Davis, might have clued them in that the group's wholesome image isn't exactly accurate.

Anyway, as I was saying, when I saw and heard Dennis last April, it was clearly obvious that something serious was wrong. He could barely speak let alone sing, and his once muscular surfer's body seemed doughy. Describing it to friends, I called it "beer bloat," for lack of a better term.

So when I told Brian that I missed seeing his brother on stage, he clicked into the Landy-programmed response: "Oh. Dennis better watch his drinking, or he'll get sclerosis (sic) of the liver." Oblivious to his Norm Crosbyism, Brian turned to my companion and worriedly asked, "You don't drink, do you? It's really bad for you."

Whatever the L.A. County Coroner ultimately concludes, my feeling is that Dennis's death wasn't from drug or alcohol abuse so much as it was the result of a cumulative overdose of life.

Nobody I've ever known lived a more intense existence than Dennis Wilson. When he worked, it was non-stop, for days at a time, until he would collapse from exhaustion on a studio control room couch. And when he played... well, let's just say that in recent years, he was more a "player" than a worker.

The night Dennis died, a South Bay newspaper reporter asked me to characterize Dennis. I told him that to me, one of Dennis's most fascinating personality facets was his intense curiosity.

Dennis wanted to know everything through experience, and he attacked life with a combination of blind faith and childlike innocence. Certainly, Dennis was no innocent. But he lived his life with a freshness and vitality that made his friends and associates feel that all that really mattered was this one, wonderful moment of now. Dennis was a perpetual bad child, but you had to love him. He could always win your forgiveness with his smile.

And incredibly, with Dennis, it was not an act. Dennis had never been taught how to deceive people, and he was genuine, easily the most candid and true member of his family and the group. A rare combination, intensity and honesty. Dennis didn't lie, except maybe to himself.

As with Keith Moon and other dead rock stars, chronology is meaningless. Dennis Wilson lived more life in a month than most people do in a lifetime; we need not feel badly just because he died so young.

So as we mourn Dennis Wilson's passing, let it be not for his youth but for the waste. He had much to give, and he only tapped a fraction of that.

On Beach Boys' albums like "Sunflower", Dennis had hinted at an emotional artistry which saw its first (and last) major expression on his impressive debut album "Pacific Ocean Blue". His music, unlike the Beach Boys' recent records, was adult and maturing, and there was the promise of more to come.

It is that unfulfilled promise of an artist who got lost in life, that we should mourn. Dennis Wilson had a significant talent, not as revolutionary as Brian's, but certainly, he had more to offer than any of the other Beach Boys. Sadly, he never seemed to know how much his music was appreciated. He was uncomfortable with his talent (who wouldn't be, in the shadow of Brian?), and it may have been the reason that to Dennis, music was an occasional obsession rather than a full-time vocation.

Dennis's role in the Beach Boys story was more of inspiration than creation. While insisting that his brother, "Brian is the Beach Boys", Dennis overlooked the fact that he, Dennis, was the Beach Boy. He was the one the girls screamed for, with his sandy hair and winning grin.

In his personal life, Dennis acted as if he feared nothing, including death. Some people said he was self-destructive, but I'm not certain that's an accurate analysis. From what I saw, Dennis approached everything he did as a challenge. Maybe, he pushed himself beyond the limit so that he could prove that for himself, there were no limits.

In the coming months, as the sordid details start to leak out, as the scandal papers recount Dennis's misguided association with Charles Manson or examine the reported marriage to his 2nd cousin (making Mike Love his father-in-law)... as we hear about the years of "substance" abuse, think of those excesses as just part of the whole. For Dennis, there was so much to try that it was inevitable that some of what he did would cross the boundaries of "accepted" behaviour.

Not that this is an apologia for Dennis. He was wonderful to know because he made everybody he was with think they were the most important person in the world at that single moment. But Dennis didn't have a lot of "follow through". He was sincere, but like a child, he moved onto a new toy, discarding the ones with which he had grown bored.

Since his death, a picture of Dennis has been painted of a man who had finally grown tired of his chemical addictions, but I don't know if that's true. Dennis was not a man of discipline and self-control, and I wonder whether he was really ready "to take the cure" It certainly makes good newspaper copy after somebody dies.

When the phone in my home tolled with the news that a Beach Boy had died, that Dennis had drowned, I wasn't surprised. Shocked? Yes. Saddened? Of course. Like John Lennon and Elvis, Dennis's death kills off another piece of our collective youth.

Writing this article has not been fun, it's more a personal catharsis, so when BAM asked me to write a reflective memoir on what Dennis Wilson meant to California music, I could only "flashback" to the times I had seen him or been alone with him and remember what he had meant to me.

Like the time when he took a bunch of rock writers into Brother Studio and taught us that making records was hard work ... or the concerts in the early '70s when Dennis would sit at the piano and play his beautiful, haunting love songs, humbly offering them to the audience as if to say, "I know they're not as good as Brian's, but...". Or at the end of the show, when caught up in the crowd's excitement, he would peel bandages off his hand and jump onto his rightful perch --- the drums.

And then there was the eerie evening he told me about his time with Charles Manson and the fear he still lived with, a fear that filled the room. Or the happier days, when he vigorously performed his promotional duties for his pride, "Pacific Ocean Blue".

Possibly my favourite memory is the time he called me at three in the morning. He was reading my book, and he had been hurt by something he had read, something I had written. He demanded to know the source of a quote. "Dennis," I softly replied, "Normally I don't reveal 'sources', but I'll make an exception in this case. Your mother told me that." And we both erupted in laughter.

I certainly don't claim to have been a close friend of Dennis Wilson's. But the time I've spent with him and his music has always been precious, and I hope that I've absorbed just a little of his spirit. He was alive!

In death, I pray he finds his peace.

-000-

"Forever"

Written by Dennis Wilson and Greg Jakobson

If every word I said  
Could make you laugh  
I'd talk Forever

If the song I sing for you  
Could fill your heart with joy  
I'd sing Forever

If the love I have for you  
Live in your heart  
and be Forever

Forever, Forever  
I've been so happy loving you.

So I'm goin' away  
But not Forever.

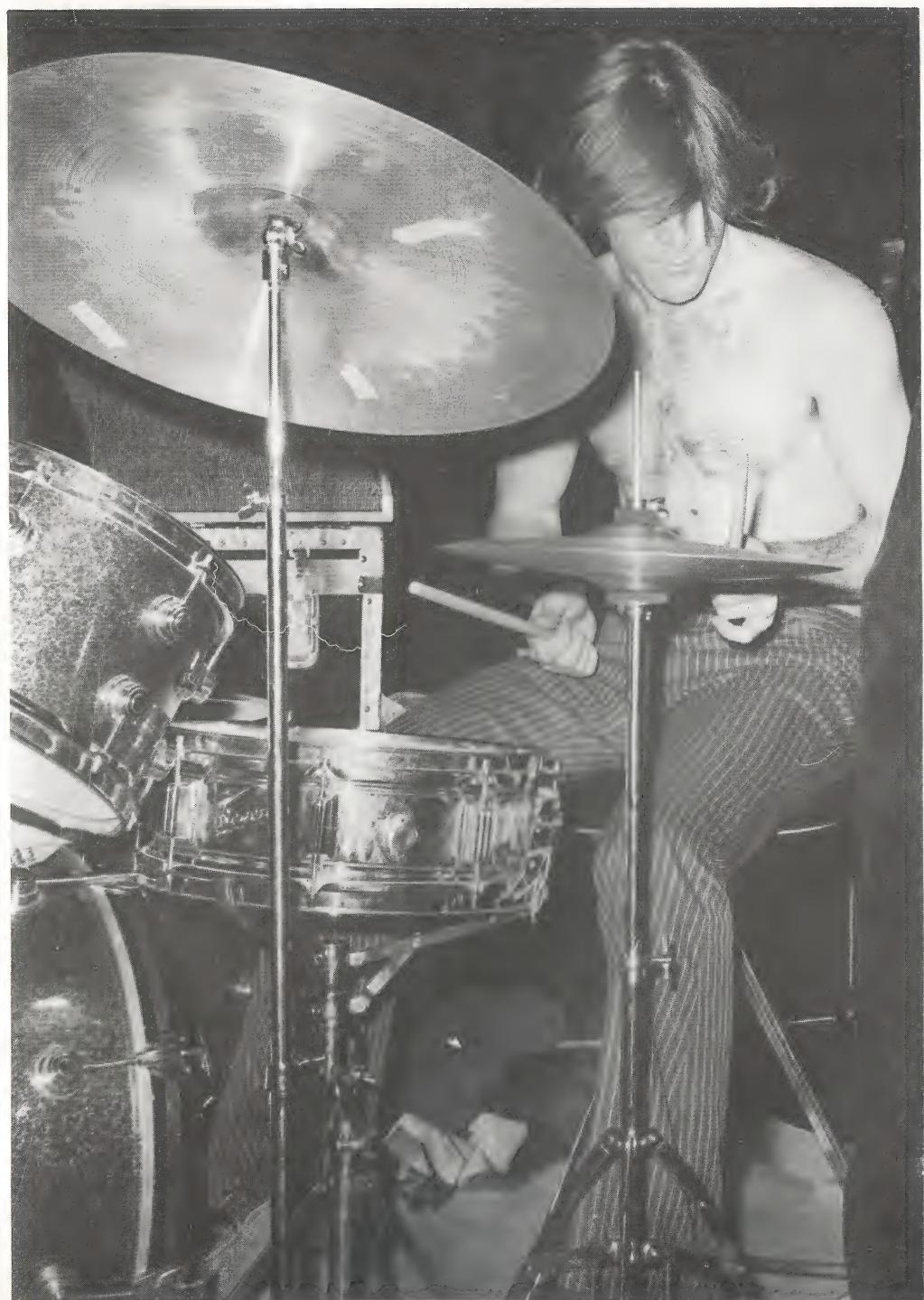
Gonna love you any ol' way.  
Forever

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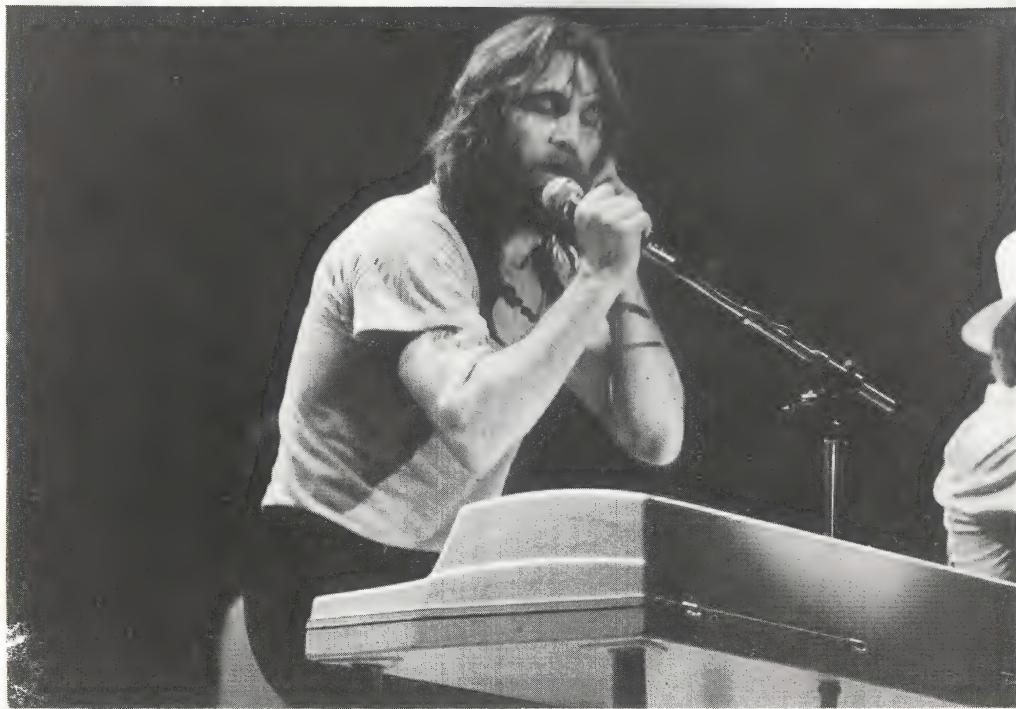
THE BEACH BOYS AND THE CALIFORNIA MYTH by David Leaf

As many of you will know this very excellent book is available from STOMP magazine for £13.25. Although we have a reasonable source our supply cannot go on for ever. The book, for those of you who are a little in the dark about it, is without doubt the finest reading that will ever be available on the group or Brian Wilson (who the book mainly revolves around). There are a great many pictures that have never been seen before and the lack of colour that may surprise some of you is due to the fact that had colour pages been included then 30 pages of text would have been lost. Nobody has yet suggested the wrong decision was made. So if you are interested in a copy, and it should be in every STOMP reader's collection, please write to Roy whose address is in the ad. section and make cheques out to BEACH BOYS STOMP. This is, I'm afraid, UK only and delivery is about eight weeks.









ADVERTS.....ADVERTS.....ADVERTS.....ADVERTS.....ADVERTS.....ADVERTS.....  
 £1 per ad, maximum 50 words

WANTED: Kirsty MacColl's "You Still Believe In Me" - POSP 368. Must be mint & include picture sleeve. Roy Gudge, 42 Frensham Road, Lower Bourne, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 3NY.

WANTED: Beach Boys' 1960's Capitol Demonstration 45's as follows:- "Surfin' USA", "I Get Around", "When I Grow Up", "Dance, Dance, Dance.", "I Can Hear Music", "Break Away". These discs are either white or green labels and have either a large red or white 'A'. Can trade if required. "All Summer Long", "Barbara Ann", "Good Vibrations", "Then I Kissed Her", and "Wild Honey". All these are demonstration as well; Roy Gudge, Address elsewhere in ad. section.

WANTED: Van Dyke Parks's "Eagle & Me" single, Basil Swift/Seagrams Single, Tape lists, photocopies of Van Dyke Parks's interviews/articles. Also tapes of Alex Chilton, Neil Young, Velvet Underground (good quality preferably). Kevin Godfrey, 140 Albion Road, Stoke Newington, London N16.

SWAP: U.S. "Child Of Winter" mint, for English copy in similar condition. Andrew Bainborough, 45 Elizabeth Avenue, Stoke Hill, Exeter, Devon, EX4 7EQ.

FOR SALE: KTSV VHS video in 'good' plus condition (50 mins) offers, "Almost Summer" album (Ex.+) £5, and Gidea Park album (slight rip on cover £4.50 (Ex.+). WANTED: "Musician" with Carl interview, pre-seventies tour progs., and absolutely anything on Carl. SAE to Julia James, 249 Henwick Road, Worcester, WR2 5PG.

FOR SALE OR TRADE: Beach Boys, Ventures, Jan & Dean, Four Seasons, Beatles VHS videos, many new titles. Also available Beach Boys/Honeys autographed albums, rare imports, rare tapes, posters, books. Special offer any three Beach Boys albums for £19 plus £1 postage. Please give one alternative choice. Most albums I have in stock, write now. Send for list. Plus list of anything you have for sale, any artist(s). Just in 'Works' 2-Lp set includes "Child Of Winter" (mint), Jim Ladd/Mike Love interview/music promo Lp. American Spring "Shyin' Away" promo in special cover mono/stereo (mint).

WANTED: "Shut Down Vol One" LP (Beach Boys + Various), Honeys "Definite" Box Set (Bootleg), "Party Album" - must be mint. J Davison, 27 Canterbury St., South Shields, Tyne & Wear, NE33 4DQ.

RARE BEACH BOYS assorted video for sale, SAE to STOMP for details.

CALIFORNIA MUSIC: 2 Kentwell Avenue Concord, 2137 Australia. CM64 is now available. 60 pages featuring a Steve Barri interview; Dunhill Records first 100; Surf-Rod 150 hits; the other surf music - Dennis Dragon-Corky Carroll-Chris Darrow; Jan & Dean Phase 11 Discography; Beach Boys Italian Discography; Papa Doo Run Run and more. \$6 a copy AIRMAIL.

#### OPEN HOUSE

Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves last year, so I'm having a second mid-season open house on Sunday 18th March from 12 noon onwards. Your 'admission charge' will be a small contribution towards buffet style refreshments. Please ring beforehand to let me know that you're coming, and for me to suggest your buffet contribution (like a wedding present list - get it?).

Once again it will be chats, listening, swaps if you have anything and videos if I can arrange it. So if anyone has interesting VHS videos please bring them along.

NB: We are a smoke free house please, but have a garden for desparate cases!

Kingsley Abbott, 39 Eglington Hill, London SE18 3NZ - Tel: 01 855 3189 (after 8 pm please).

SURFER'S RULE is the new surf music magazine from Scandinavia (in English). Subscriptions £3 for 3 issues. Published 3 times a year. Send money to Goran Tammfelt, Lilla Nygatan 16, 11128 Stockholm, Sweden.

BEACH BOYS FREAKS UNITED is the official US fan club. For one year's subscription of 4 issues send £3 to PO Box 842282, Los Angeles, California 90073, USA.

ADD SOME MUSIC is published bi-annually, contains album reviews, factual articles and exclusive photos. Send £6 to Don Cunningham, PO Box 10405, Elmwood, Connecticut 06210, USA.

Back issues of PET SOUNDS magazine are available exclusively from Peter Reum, PO Box 1523, Greeley, Colorado 80632, USA. Published in 1977 and 1978, some called PET SOUNDS the best Beach Boys fanzine ever. The following is a description and price guide:

Issue 1: Interviews with Brian Wilson and Dean Torrence, nearly two dozen photos of the Beach Boys' 15th Anniversary Party and concert, exclusive news, photos, reviews and much more - Price \$2.00.

Issue 2: Interviews with Bruce Johnston, Dean Torrence (part 2) and Brother Studio engineer Earle Mankey, a feature story (with pictures) on Papa Doo Run Run, part one of Peter Reum's incredible Beach Boys and Brian Wilson discography, over a dozen photos, news, reviews and more, Price \$2.00.

Issue 3: Exclusive interviews with Dennis Wilson and Jan Berry, a preview of the still-unreleased ADULT CHILD LP, part two of Peter Reum's discography, news, reviews, many pictures and more. This issue is OUT-OF-PRINT. However, xeroxed copies are available for \$2.00 only when you purchase another issue of PET SOUNDS.

Issue 4: This special double edition, the final issue of PET SOUNDS, includes nearly three dozen photos, a Bruce Johnston interview in which he explains his return to the group, a feature on the TV-movie Dead Man's Curve, the gigantic conclusion of Peter Reum's discography (with pictures of many rare record sleeves), news, reviews and more. Price \$2.50.

Issues 1, 2 and 4 are available as a package for £6.00. Outside of the US & Canada, add \$1.00 per issue for air mail delivery. Please make your International Money Order payable to Peter Reum and send it to him at the above address. Please don't send cash through the mail.

#### EAST MEETS WEST - Beach Boys / Four Seasons

Way back in STOMP 31 it was mentioned that there was the possibility of a joint Beach Boys/Four Seasons project; well it's finally happening.

On Mike's recent promotional visit to the UK just before Christmas he played me an unfinished tape of EAST MEETS WEST, produced by Bob Gaudio. The production instantly reminded me of the Four Seasons' great WHO LOVES YOU album. The backing track is very keyboard dominated with a really modern feel while the lyrics are nostalgic detailing the friendly rivalry in the sixties between the Four Seasons (East) and the Beach Boys (West). There is a very catchy chorus "From the nights in Hollywood, to the lights on Broadway". Frankie Valli and Mike Love share lead vocals with Frankie getting the lion's share. Mike sounds in top class form - "When out in California where the surf was up". Mike, Carl, Alan and Bruce handle the backing vocals and the intention is for Brian to add his voice at a later date - where have we heard that one before!?

Only hearing it once I did my best to remember as much as I could and when it finished I thought it sounded like an American smash hit that I'm sure the US DJs will really go for, but not really geared for the UK. I asked Mike which label it is likely to come out on and he said that still had to be worked out. Mike also said that if it comes off there may even be an album with three or four songs by the Beach Boys and the Four Seasons together and three or four by each group separately. Bob Gaudio certainly sounds like the right man to handle production duties.

I only hope they do actually finish it and that it does get released, even just the single.

Definitely something to look forward to this year.

MIKE

19  
NEWS

The main, tragic news item is covered elsewhere in this issue and has received extensive media coverage, so it's on to the other information collated before December 28th.... but not before a moment's remembrance of a very special, vital person; God bless you, Dennis....

It seems highly likely that there will be some form of new Beach Boys product early this year, though the much-discussed album project with Steve Levine is still up in the air at the time of writing. More concrete is the news of a Beach Boys/Four Seasons collaboration - review elsewhere in this issue.

The band have also been party to another collaborative effort, and before proceeding any further we feel constrained to swear, with our hands on our hearts, that the following is not a joke. Julio Inglesias is in the process of recording a new album with an all-star cast, and to this end, the Beach Boys have contributed backing vocals to one track, "The Air That I Breathe". At the time of writing, the cut still requires some work and it's not 100% certain that it will be used, but at the very least it's another chapter of the ongoing California saga.

Returning to pure BB product, Brian has reportedly penned some twenty new songs in recent months, with such titles as "Male Ego" and "The Boogie's In Town", which boasts a full horn arrangement and has been performed live (without the horns, natch). Meantime, Mike and Adrian Baker are continuing with the oft-mentioned Dance Party album concept, which could well be released this year. Just before Christmas Mike made a flying visit to France, Holland and England with the dual intent of promoting "Jingle Bell Rock" and cutting some tracks with Adrian for the album, for which the B side of "Jingle Bell Rock" - "Let's Party", is something of a taster. Mike Love cut vocal tracks for "Dancing On a Saturday Night" - the old Barry Blue hit, and a new Adrian song "Summertime City". A Radio Shack LP by the Association, NEW MEMORIES, may well have Mike & Dean guesting; "Stagger Lee" has been mentioned as a possible title, but Mike seemed to doubt it.

His Loveship also put down unofficial but persistant rumours that CBS were in the process of suing the Beach Boys for failure to fulfill their contract, by observing that if this was so then he personally knew nowt about it, "... and I think I would!" In fact, it appears that CBS are considering extending the Boys contract. Speaking of contracts, last issue's intelligence concerning Carl and CBS got rather garbled in the journey across the Atlantic, and should have read thus: Carl is cutting demos with Christopher Cross and if CBS consider them up to snuff, then his option will be renewed. Otherwise....

In the light of recent events, the following item may well be academic but here goes anyway; to celebrate (?) the 25th anniversary of the Berlin airlift, the Beach Boys have been invited to perform for the troops in the city and Mike added, "We'll probably use that as an anchor date and do some gigs elsewhere in Europe, including London." Keep watching this space.

Bootleg news: though LANDLOCKED, MADE IN USA and SMILE have now totally vanished (the latter justly so), the word is to expect four new titles sometime in 1984, these being NEW ALBUM, ADULT CHILD, MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE BEACH BOYS and CALIFORNIA FEELING.

Dennis's PACIFIC OCEAN BLUE is being re-issued by CBS in the Nice Price series which sells for £2.99. It's due in February, Nos are: Album 32438, Cassette 40-32438.

A letter from Brad Elliott informs us that after many delays THE BRIAN WILSON PRODUCTIONS double album is now in production. We should see copies by the end of March. It is being assembled by Capitol's Special Markets Division and as soon as we get a confirmed track listing we will let you know.

Finally in the middle of January the Beach Boys were scheduled at Caribou Studios in Colorado to record a song for the soundtrack to an upcoming film "Up The Creek" with producer Spencer Proffer.

MIKE & AGD

